LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
3 3298 00261 3181

First Peoples' Heritage, Language & Culture Council

Performance Plan
2001/2002

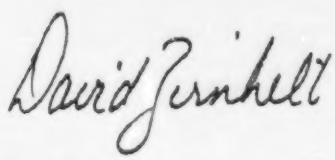
101-05367/

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

It is my pleasure to introduce the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council's 2001/2002 Performance Plan.

In this plan, the Council has outlined its planned approach for the year ahead to support the preservation of Aboriginal culture and languages in British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,



David Zirnhelt
Minister

VISION

The First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council will increasingly become recognized as the major source for current and accurate information on the state of Aboriginal languages in British Columbia while continuing to provide program co-ordination and funding for Aboriginal language and culture preservation and enhancement.

MISSION

Provincial legislation (the *First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act*) establishes the mission of the Council as follows:

- To provide funding to cultural and language programs.
- To support and advise government on initiatives, programs and services relating to Aboriginal heritage, language and culture.
- To advise government on the preservation and fostering of Aboriginal languages and other aspects of cultural development of Aboriginal peoples throughout British Columbia.

VALUES

The First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council is guided by the following principles:

- Program access will be available throughout British Columbia for qualifying individuals and groups.
- Program decision making will be open and transparent.
- Program delivery will be efficient and accountable.
- Language program delivery will seek to maximize language group co-ordination and co-operation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN AND KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES

External Factors affecting performance:

- The number of fluent speakers of Aboriginal languages in British Columbia has been in decline since European contact. This decline has now reached a crisis level with most languages endangered or critically endangered.

- No co-ordinated effort has been made to address this decline.

- Provincial funding through FPHLC Council has provided support to language preservation programs designed and implemented at the community level. These programs continue, but results in terms of increasing fluency levels have been inconsistent and difficult to measure or monitor.

- Federal government support for BC Aboriginal languages preservation has been minimal.

- Requests for language program funding consistently seek four to five times available funding.

- Funders recognize FPHLC Council as an accountable and skilled program delivery agency.

Internal factors and recent performance:

- FPHLC Council has effectively delivered BC Arts Council funding for the Aboriginal Arts Development Award for the past five years, resulting in funding increases each of the past two fiscal years with further increases expected.

- FPHLC Council has delivered federal funding for the Aboriginal Languages Initiative for the past three fiscal years, and will do so for the remainder of the program (one more fiscal year guaranteed).

- FPHLC Council's dependence on recently inconsistent and unpredictable provincial funding for core language programs has created uncertainty regarding the future of the organization and affected program continuity.

- FPHLC Council has begun focusing resources and energy on developing alternative sources of funding. In 2000 the Council registered the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation as a charitable public foundation with the mandate to raise public and private funds to support the work of the Council.

- FPHLC Council supported the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation to plan and carry out Aboriginal Languages Day festivals in six communities in BC in 2000 and hosted an evening cultural event in Vancouver that generated media and public attention for the issue of Aboriginal language preservation.

- The FPHLC Council has traditionally been a funder but not a leader in terms of language program direction, co-ordination and monitoring.

- FPHLC Council delivered no provincial funding for language programs in the 1999-2000 fiscal year, due to reduced provincial funding received. In 2000-2001, $400,000 was delivered to British Columbia communities for language programming.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

FPHLC Council will:

- Deliver the Aboriginal Arts Development Award funding to an estimated one hundred (100) Aboriginal artists and organizations (which serve many artists) in a variety of disciplines.

- Deliver Aboriginal Languages Initiative funding provided by the federal government through the Assembly of First Nations. This funding will support an estimated twenty (20) language preservation projects.

- Deliver Heritage, Language and Culture provincial funding to First Nations communities for language preservation programs. This funding will support an estimated twenty-five (25) projects.

- Support the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation in the areas of community outreach, issue recognition, and revenue generation activities.

- Enhance and improve our website to encourage participatory opportunities for discussion of Aboriginal languages programs and issues; to highlight BC Aboriginal artists; and to stimulate national and international recognition of the urgent need to preserve BC Aboriginal languages.

- Advise the provincial government through the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs of issues relating to Aboriginal language and culture preservation and enhancement.

- Enhance the position of the Council as a representative and authoritative voice regarding BC Aboriginal languages by increasing participation in and representation at related community events and umbrella organization meetings. Examples will include the First Nations Education Steering Committee, the First Nations Summit, the Assembly of First Nations (BC Region), the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, and others.

KEY STRATEGIES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Council will support the development of a computer software program to facilitate dictionary development and transfer of terms between English and all Aboriginal languages and dialects. The software will be developed and pilot projects implemented in three communities in the current year.

The Council will streamline language program application processes by clarifying application criteria and further enhancing review committee process. An indicator of success in this strategy will be a reduced proportion of inadmissible applications.

Discrete performance measures regarding funding delivery are difficult to specify other than to detail funding targets. The number of projects funded will vary within each

funding program as a result of the amount approved for each successful application. Anticipated funding levels are as follows:

- Aboriginal Arts Development Award - $135,000
- Aboriginal Languages Initiative - $235,000
- Heritage, Language and Culture Program - $500,000

Outcomes of funded projects will be monitored through post-project evaluations and reports by recipients and follow-up as needed by Council staff.

Measurement of enhanced name and issue recognition will involve tracking information requests, website visits and corporate funding involvement.

MAJOR CAPITAL PLAN

The FPHLC Council anticipates no major capital acquisitions or developments in this planning period.

PLANNING PERIOD

The current plan reflects the 2001-2002 fiscal year. Variability in funding has a dramatic impact on the Council's ability to plan into the future. As this plan is being prepared, confirmed funding for the organization is not sufficient to predict program delivery in the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 fiscal years.